

Message Text

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SUBJ: FY 76 CU ALLOCATIONS

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1. IN KEEPING WITH HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS FROM CU/AF, AND AS REPORTED LIBREVILLE 1588, POST PROPOSES COMPLETELY REVISE GABON CPP TO TAKE MORE EFFECTIVE ACCOUNT OF GOG DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND REAPPRAISAL OF AREAS IN WHICH CU PROGRAMS CAN HAVE GREATEST IMPACT.

2. GIVEN IMPENDING DEADLINE OF NOVEMBER 30 FOR COMMITTING FIRST TWO IV GRANTS ALREADY MADE AVAILABLE TO POST A(AND SLOWNESS OF GOG BUREAUCRACY IN RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FOR NOMINATIONS, WHICH MUST BE HANDLED BY NOTE TO PRESIDENCY), POST PROPOSED SHIFT THESE GRANTS TO AGRICULTURE SECTOR--WHICH WE CONSIDER OF HIGHEST PRIORITY--PENDING SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL OF REVISED CPP. GOG HAS PLACED STEADILY INCREASING EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN EFFORT STEM SERIOUS OUTFLOW OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR PURCHASE OF FOODSTUFFS, AND THERE IS SIGNIFICANT OPIC AND U.S. CORPORATE INTEREST IN HAVING AMERICAN FIRMS PARTICIPATE IN THIS DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. THUS, GRANTS IN AGRICULTURAL FIELD COULD HAVE REAL MULTIPLIER EFFECT BY EXPOSING GABONESE OFFICIALS TO AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT AND METHODS AT EARLY STAGE IN THEIR OWN PLANNING AND COULD ALSO HELP PAVE WAY TO MAJOR CONTRACTS FOR AMERICAN FIRMS.

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3. OUT INTENTION WOULD BE TO PROPOSE THAT GOG NOMINATE TWO OFFICIALS OF MINAGRICULTURE RESPONSIBLE FOR PLANNING FUTURE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND TO EXPOSE THEM IN COURSE U.S. VISIT TO VARIOUS TYPES FARMING IN U.S., AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION PROGRAMS, AND MANUFACTURERS OF FARM MACHINERY, WITH EMPHASIS ON WHAT IS RELEVANT TO GABON. PROGRAM SHOULD INCLUDE VISITS AS (A) SMALL AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE; (B) SMALL-SIZE CHICKEN FARM; (C) CATTLE-RAISING OPERATION; (D) VEGETABLE AND FRUIT FARM WITH PACKAGING OPERATION; AND (E) AGRICULTURAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL TO OBSERVE TEACHING METHODS. METHODS FOR SELECTION OF FERTILIZERS AND SEEDS SHOULD BE PRESENTED. GRANTEES SHOULD BE SHOWN HOW AGRICULTURAL NEWS PROGRAMS ARE ORGANIZED. VISIT TO FARM MACHINERY MANUFACTURER SHOULD EMPHASIZE MEDIUM-SIZE TRACTORS AND WHAT IS NEEDED TO ESTABLISH MOBILE AGRICULTURAL REPAIR SHOP.

4. AS NOTED LIBREVILLE 1588, HOWEVER, WE NEED TO KNOW WHETHER CU/AF IS PLANNING REGIONAL PROGRAM IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR BEFORE MAKING FINAL DECISION WHETHER TO COMMIT TWO OF OUR THREE AVAILABLE GRANTS IN THIS FIELD. MORE BROADLY, ENTIRE CPP DECISION ALSO DEPENDS ON KNOWING FIELDS IN WHICH CU/AF PROPOSES TO MOUNT REGIONAL EFFORT, SO THAT WE CAN BALANCE PRIORITIES FOR USE OF POST ALLOCATION ACCORDINGLY.

5. IN LIGHT THIS INFORMATION, WOULD APPRECIATE ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION SOONEST CONCERNING REGIONAL PROGRAMS PLUS CU/AF GREEN LIGHT FOR US TO PROCEED WITH REQUEST TO GOG FOR NOMINATION IN AGRICULTURAL FIELD BEFORE DEADLINE FOR COMMITTING THESE GRANTS IS UPON US. STEIGMAN

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